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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

4 NOVEMBER 2019

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Kern County – Police Find and Destroy \$1 Billion Worth of Marijuana Plants

(U) The Kern County Sheriff's Office, with the help of the FBI, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, executed search warrants on 11 fields in the Arvin area, about 100-miles north of Los Angeles. From the 459 acres of land, authorities destroyed about 10 million marijuana plants totaling about \$1 billion on the black market, the sheriff's office said. "These illicit marijuana gardens were grown under the guise of legitimate hemp production," the sheriff's office said. The Food and Agricultural Code, and Health and Safety Code define industrial hemp as containing less than 0.3% THC content. An investigation is ongoing, authorities said.

SOURCE: 4 November 2019, [CNN](#)

(U) Monterey – Two Murder Suspects Escape from Jail, Still At-Large

(U) Authorities are fanning out across Central California after two murder suspects escaped from jail in Monterey on Sunday. Santos Fonseca, 21, and Jonathan Salazar, 20, escaped from custody of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, the office said. The pair escaped Sunday morning, but no further details of the jailbreak were released by authorities. Both men, who were in jail for unrelated crimes, turned up missing during a routine head count. A \$5,000 reward has been issued for information leading to the men's arrest. Fonseca was being held on \$2.25 million bail for murder and was also being held on an attempted robbery charge, according to court records. He had been booked on 7 June 2018. He was allegedly responsible for the shooting deaths of two people in early June 2018.

SOURCE: 4 November 2019, [ABC News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) San Diego – Smuggling Groups Sawing Through New Sections of Border Wall

(U) Smuggling groups in Mexico have repeatedly sawed through new sections of the border wall in recent months by using commercially available power tools, opening gaps large enough for people and drug loads to pass through, according to US agents and officials with knowledge of the damage. The breaches have been made using a popular cordless household tool known as a reciprocating saw that retails at hardware stores for as little as \$100. When fitted with specialized blades, the saws can slice through one of the barrier's steel-and-concrete bollards in minutes, according to the agents, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

SOURCE: 3 November 2019, [Denver Post](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Florida – Arrest Made in Bomb Threat against Church

(U) Thonotosassa – Willie Littlefield, 55, was arrested Sunday and charged with making a false bomb threat against the Fellowship Baptist Church, according to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. The agency traced the call and deputies responded to Littlefield's home and to the church. They found a car outside the church packed with several closed boxes and evacuated the area. A bomb team from the

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Sheriff's Office investigated and determined the boxes only contained car parts.

SOURCE: 4 November 2019, [Tampa Bay News](#)

(U) Minnesota – Arrest Made in Suspected Hate Crime after Man Attacked with Acid

(U) Milwaukee – Police arrested a man after he attacked another and burned him with acid in what officials say is a hate crime. Mahud Villalaz suffered second-degree burns to his face after he was confronted by a man he says accused him of being in the country illegally. Villalaz, a US citizen and Latino, says the man approached him in front of a restaurant Friday night, told him he didn't belong in the country and threw acid from a container on him.

SOURCE: 4 November 2019, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Oklahoma – Woman Accused of Terrorist Plot Bonds Out

(U) Eufaula – Alexis Wilson, 18, posted \$500,000 bail relating to charges of making terrorist threats to a school. Deputies arrested Wilson after she showed a co-worker at a pizza restaurant photos of a recently purchased AK-47 rifle and she allegedly said she planned to kill "400 students for fun," according to court documents. Wilson pleaded not guilty to the charges. Pittsburg County sheriff's deputies seized an AK-47 rifle, six ammunition clips, high-velocity bullets and a 12-gauge shotgun from Wilson's bedroom at a rural residence, according to court documents. According to text messages from Wilson, she cut her hair to resemble one of the Columbine school shooters, pictures of mass shootings, and references to graduation crowds and dates.

SOURCE: 1 November 2019, [McAlester News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Egypt – ISIS Sinai Province Swears Allegiance to new ISIS Leader

(U) Cairo – Egypt's ISIS affiliate, Sinai Province, has sworn allegiance to the new leader named by the group following the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the affiliate said on Telegram on Saturday. Sinai Province, which has waged an insurgency against the Egyptian state, posted pictures of around two dozen fighters standing among trees, with a caption saying they were pledging allegiance to Abu Ibrahim al-Hashemi al-Quraishi.

SOURCE: 3 November 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) Italy – 19 Arrested in Bust of International Heroin Ring

(U) Rome – Police in Italy arrested 19 people, most from Tanzania, when dismantling a heroin ring involving more than 150 suspects in Africa, Asia, and Europe, authorities said on Saturday. The arrests stemmed from a probe began in 2012 with a heroin seizure in Perugia, a university town in central Italy. Investigators in Perugia told reporters that one ringleader is a Tanzanian who, from his base in Poland, directed heroin shipments from Asia to Italy for street sales. Authorities said the drug traffickers kept a low profile, living in modest homes and working as barbers, merchants and other legitimate professions. Since the probe began, 144 drug couriers have been arrested.

SOURCE: 2 November 2019, [Washington Post](#)

(U) Mali – 53 Soldiers Killed in Deadliest Attack in 10-Years

(U) Bamako – The Malian army was targeted on a military post in Indelimane, in the Menaka region near the border with Niger, according to the government. At least 53 soldiers and one civilian are believed to have been killed. It is the second major assault on soldiers in a month, and one of the deadliest in the last decade. ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

SOURCE: 2 November 2019, [Sky News](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED**(U) Turkey – Captured ISIS Fighters to be Sent Back to Home Countries**

(U) Ankara – Fighters of the ISIS terror organization now being held by Turkey will be shipped back to their home countries, even if they don't want them, government officials in Ankara said. Turkey's interior minister, Suleyman Soyly, has criticized European governments who have refused to repatriate their nationals who joined ISIS to fight in Syria and Iraq. "This is not acceptable to us. It's also irresponsible," Mr. Soyly said. "We will send the captured ISIS members to their countries." Germany has repatriated some children and women, allowing adult males to remain in Kurdish custody. France has advocated sending its ISIS members home to face justice there. There have been escapes from Kurdish-controlled jails following Turkey's incursion into northern Syria, with some escapees recaptured by Turkish troops.

SOURCE: 3 November 2019, [Washington Times](#)

(U) United Kingdom – UK Lowers National Terrorism Threat Level

(U) London – Britain downgraded its national terrorism threat level to "substantial" from "severe" today, its lowest level since 2014, interior minister Priti Patel said. The threat posed to the country has largely stood at "severe" for the last five-years but in 2017 it was briefly moved to "critical", twice, meaning an attack was highly likely in the near future. "Despite the change in the threat level, terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to our national security," Patel said in a statement.

SOURCE: 4 November 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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